



# What's New in the City

## City of Natchitoches

### South Drive Construction to Start Monday, February 2

Construction will begin on Hwy 1 South (South Drive) from Keyser Avenue to Hancock Avenue on Monday, February 2, 2015. The construction project will include the relocation of water and sewer lines as well as the widening of the roadway.

The City of Natchitoches will be responsible for the first phase of the project which will include relocating the water and sewer lines along the side of the road.

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) will continue the second

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#### Did you know?

- Bloomin' on the Bricks, Natchitoches' spring garden festival, will be held Saturday, March 21. Vendor applications are still being accepted. Please contact the Natchitoches Main Street Office at 318-352-2746 for more information.

- NSU's Office of Electronic and Continuing Education will offer a Louisiana Concealed Carry Class Saturday, February 7 from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The cost of the class is \$110 plus a range fee and is open to those age 21 or older who would like to obtain a Louisiana concealed handgun permit. For more information, call (318) 357-5682.

- An encore screening of "Sacred as Folk," a documentary detailing the life of Brother Michael David Elvestrom will be held February 10 at 6:00 p.m. at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum.

- The City of Natchitoches Offices will be closed Monday, February 16 for President's Day.



### Mardi Gras Parades Begin February 7

Laissez les bon temps rouler! Let the good times roll in Natchitoches! With Mardi Gras quickly approaching on February 17th, parades across the city are ready to roll!

The Third Annual Mardi Gras on the Square Parade will be held Saturday, February 7 at noon. The children-centered parade will through the streets of the Jackson Square Community in west

Natchitoches. Former Northwestern State University Demon and San Francisco 49er Kevin Lewis will be Parade Grand Marshal.

All are invited to come out and be a part of the fun and excitement! For more information, contact Mike Robinson or Ralph Wilson.

On Saturday, February 14, grab the kids and your favorite pet for the Krewe of Wag-uns Children & Pet Parade. The parade will begin at 4:00 p.m. at the Bank of Montgomery located at 814 Washington Street.

There is a \$5 entry fee for all pet owners. Pet owners can register their pets to be eligible for Celebrity Status, King Rex Rufus and Queen Mutt A Gras. Children may ride scooters, bicycles or wagons in the parade and must be accompanied by an adult. The parade will travel south from Bank of Montgomery on Front Street to Rue Toulaine and turn left onto Rue Beauport ending on the downtown riverbank. The Krewe of Wag-uns Children & Pet Parade is sponsored by the Natchitoches Humane Soci-

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# KNB How Do You Recycle Contest Extended to Feb. 13

Keep Natchitoches Beautiful began asking the question "How Do You Recycle?" in a social media campaign in efforts to get local residents engaged in recycling efforts in the city. Local residents are encouraged to submit photos for a chance to win \$100 and to be featured in a new recycling campaign sponsored by Keep Natchitoches Beautiful and Alliance Compressors. Deadline for photo entries has been extended to Friday, February 13, 2015.

The purpose of the new "How Do You Recycle" campaign is to get local residents actively involved in recycling efforts throughout the City of Natchitoches and surrounding parish. The campaign will feature local citizens in campaign banners, posters, and promotional materials designed to educate the community of proper recycling techniques and recycling services available in Natchitoches.

Residents are asked to submit photographs to Keep Natchitoches Beautiful on Facebook for a chance to be featured in the new ad campaign. Simply like the Keep Natchitoches Beautiful Facebook page and post a photo using #KNBrecycles. A total of three photos will be selected for inclusion in the "How Do You Recycle" campaign, and winners will receive a cash award sponsored by Alliance Compressors. The entry period for photo submissions has been extended to Friday, February 13, 2015. Selected photos will be



revealed at the March 13, 2015 Leaders Against Litter Event.

For more information on the new "How Do You Recycle" campaign or Keep Natchitoches Beautiful, please call the City of Natchitoches' Main Street Office at (318) 352-2746.



# Mardi Gras (cont.)

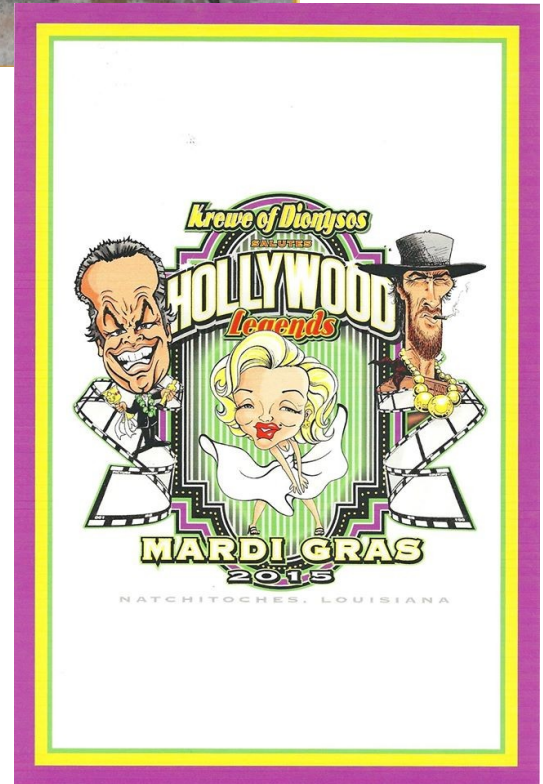
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ing north to Texas Street. The parade will turn again at Texas Street and Second Street ending at the intersection of Church Street and Second Street. For more information on the Krewe of Diony-

ety. All funds raised will benefit animal spay and neuter programs in Natchitoches Parish.

The Krewe of Dionysos Mardi Gras Parade will roll at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 14th. The parade will salute Hollywood Legends. The evening parade will feature several "super floats" and plenty of throws for everyone. The parade will begin at the River South Common parking lot in East Natchitoches traveling down South Drive to Keyser Avenue. The parade will continue west along Keyser Avenue crossing into the Natchitoches Historic Landmark District turning right onto Jefferson Street continu-



visit kreweof-dionysos.yolasite.com.

# Construction (cont.)

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phase of the project which will widen the section of South Drive from Keyser Avenue to Hancock Avenue into a 3-lane roadway with one lane in each direction and a center turning lane. The project is expected to be completed by December 2015.

Due to the scope of the project, traffic disruptions and street closures are possible during both

phases of construction. The public is encouraged to drive with caution through the construction site and to use alternate routes where possible. The City of Natchitoches appreciates the public's patience while these improvements are underway.

For questions or concerns on the project, please contact lead engineer Nolan Johnson of N&A, Inc. at (318) 352-3665.

## Cane River Creole NHP to Present Free African American History Month Programs

In honor of African American History Month, Cane River Creole National Historical Park will be partnering with Asbury United Methodist Church to present a free concert on Friday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m. The concert will feature musicians from New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park playing selections from their acclaimed CD collection: "Freedom is Coming: Songs of Freedom, Resistance and the Underground Railroad."

This marks the second consecutive year that this concert will be held. Last year's concert was a huge success. The church was full close to capacity. Visitors are encouraged to arrive early to secure a seat. The National Park Service will be selling CDs after the performance.

The concert will take place at Asbury United Methodist, one of the most important historic churches in Natchitoches. According to late historian Robert B. DeBlieux, "Reverend Ebenezer Haywood, a clergyman of the Methodist

faith, formed an association of a hundred members. Each person paid one dollar for membership and made a monthly contribution of a quarter of a dollar; these funds were applied to church construction. In December of 1866, Methodist Episcopal Society of New York allotted \$2,000 to aid in the creation of Reverend Haywood's church on the corner of Rue St. Denis and 5th Street. Thus began the Asbury United Methodist Church, the first black church in Natchitoches." Today, the present church sits near its original location on 704 5th Street.

Park Ranger Frances Rivas will also be presenting a free African American History Month Program at the park's Magnolia Plantation Overseer's house. The program titled "From Africa to Cane River: The Evolution of American Music" will take place every Saturday in February at 2:30 p.m. Frances' program will show how many modern American musical genres were



influenced by African American culture. Magnolia Plantation is located at 5549 Hwy 119 in Derry, Louisiana.

For more information on either of these events, please call (318) 356-8441.

## Chamber Announces Creation of Natchitoches Community Alliance

The Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the creation of the Natchitoches Community Alliance Foundation, Inc. (NCA) through an initial investment of more than \$16,000 of direct and in-kind funding. The NCA will work with existing local and regional entities to provide the common framework for coordinated economic development efforts in Natchitoches Parish. Funding for the NCA will be through negotiated contracts for services among major entities, membership investments and grants.

"I am very excited about what this means for our Parish, now and for the future,"

says Tony Davis. Leadership for the organization will be through Tony Davis, who will serve a dual role as President of both the NCA and the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce, with Mike Wolff service as Vice President of Economic Development for the NCA.

The NCA harnesses the respective strengths of Natchitoches stakeholders to ensure a coordinated, proactive approach to growing the economy of the entire parish through business retention, expansion, recruitment, and entrepreneurship; workforce development; and marketing of the assets of Natchitoches parish to local, regional, and statewide partners.

## Foundation Document for Cane River Creole NHP

The National Park Service is starting the process of preparing a Foundation Document for planning and management at Cane River Creole National Historical Park. The park would like to invite the public to join in this effort.

A Foundation Document involves revisiting a national park unit's core mission and significance, most important resources and values, and the interpretive themes that tell the park's important stories. Although the Foundation Document is not a decision-making document and does not include actions or management strategies, it describes a shared understanding of what is most important about the park. In this capacity, the Foundation

Document will reestablish the underlying guidance for future management and planning decisions at Cane River Creole NHP.

The public is invited to attend an open house at the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, 645 University Parkway on February 2 from 4—6 p.m., and to help play a role in charting the park's future by sharing your thoughts on what is important about Cane River Creole NHP, and to help identify its most pressing threats and its greatest opportunities. Your feedback will allow the park to take your thoughts into consideration as they prepare the Foundation Document.

Oldest Permanent  
Settlement in the  
Louisiana Purchase

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cityhall@natchitochesla.gov



The Natchitoches Parish Library will be hosting special movie afternoons to celebrate African American History Month.

On February 3 beginning at 3:30



**Rosa Parks**

p.m. the library will screen "Rosa Parks and the Civil Rights Movement,"

"Inventors of the World: George Washington Carver," and "Under the Freedom Tree." On February 19 the library will screen



**George Washington Carver**

"Underground Railroad" at 3:30 p.m.

The library will also have a slideshow featuring biographies about prominent African Americans throughout history on the electronic bulletin boards provided by the Friends of the Natchitoches Parish Library.

The library will also host a poetry and performance by The Brainy Acts on February 12 at 3:30 p.m. Then on February 26 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., students from Northwestern State University will offer free tutoring to students. The target audience will be K—6th grade, but anyone is welcome to attend.

For more information about these or other programming at the Natchitoches Parish Library, stop by the library at 450 Second Street, call Community Outreach Coordinator Amy Walmsley at (318) 357-3280, or visit online at [www.youseemore.com/natchitoches](http://www.youseemore.com/natchitoches).

## Upcoming Holidays & Important Dates



Feb. 2—Groundhog Day

5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Feb. 2 — Natchitoches Historic District Commission Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Feb. 10—"Sacred as Folk" Encore Screening, 6:00 p.m. at Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum

Feb. 2—Cane River Creole NHP Open House, 4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. at National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, 645 University Parkway

Feb. 14 — Valentine's Day



Feb. 14 — Krewe of Wag-uns Children & Pet Parade, 4:00 p.m. Parade rolls down Front Street and the downtown riverbank

Feb. 14—Krewe of Dionysos Mardi Gras Parade, 5:30 p.m. Parade rolls through East Natchitoches and the Natchitoches Historic District

Feb. 3 — Planning & Zoning Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Feb. 7 — Mardi Gras on the Square Parade, 12:00 p.m. Parade rolls through the Jackson Square Community in west Natchitoches

Feb. 9 — City Council Meeting,



Feb. 16 — President's Day. City Offices Closed.



Feb. 17—Mardi Gras Day

Feb. 17 — Airport Commission Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at the Natchitoches Regional Airport

Feb. 19 — Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission Meeting, 10:00 a.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Feb. 20 — African American History Concert, 7:00 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 704 5th Street

Feb. 21 — NCHS Third Annual High School Fishing Tournament, Cane River Lake in downtown Natchitoches. Weigh-in 2:00 p.m.

Feb. 23—City Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center